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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

OPR-02 CU-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BUKAVU PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCITS

REF: DAR 1706; 1727; 1742

1. IN CONSIDERING WHAT COURSE OF ACTION MIGHT INDUCE
KIDNAPPERS TO RELEASE CAPTIVES AND AT THE SAME TIME BE
ACCEPTABLE TO GOT AND GOZ, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY DAR (DAR
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1727) THAT KEY ELEMENTS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE A) ARGU-

MENT THAT PRP HAS ALREADY GAINED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY FOR ITS CAUSE (AN ACHIEVEMENT WHICH, WE WOULD ARGUE, WOULD BE VITIATED BY THE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY THEY WOULD GET IF ANY HARM CAME TO CAPTIVES) AND B) POSSIBLE OFFER TO RELEASE SOME PRP PRISONERS NOW HELD IN TANZANIA. ALTHOUGH AS A MATTER OF FIRM POLICY USG (AS PRESUMABLY GOZ AND GOT) DOES NOT PAY RANSOM, AND ADVISES AGAINST ITS PAYMENT BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES OR OTHER GOVERNMENTS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO STAND ASIDE IF PRIVATE PARTIES (STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND/OR CAPTIVES' FAMILIES) SHOULD EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO PROVIDE RANSOMFUNDS. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NO ROOM FOR ANY ACCOMMODATION ON ARMS DEMAND; WE ASSUME PRP WELL AWARE OF THIS AND INCLUDED IT ONLY AS PART OF INITIAL BARGAINING POSITION.

2. IN VIEW OF CONSIDERATIONS ABOVE, KEY PROBLEM AS WE SEE IT IS TO FIND WAY IN WHICH RELEASE OF PRP PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR CAPTIVES COULD BE MADE PALATABLE TO NYERERE AND MOBUTU AND CONSISTENT WITH USG POLICY OF OPPOSING CAPITULATION TO DEMANDS OF TERRORISTS. IF, IN-DEED, ALL PRP PRISONERS WERE RELEASED LATE APRIL AND AT LEAST SOME THEN RE-ARRESTED AFTER KIDNAPPING, NYERERE MIGHT REPRESENT LATTER'S QUIET RELEASE NOW AS SIMPLY A RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE. EVEN IF SOME OF THE PRP PRISONERS WERE NOT ACTUALLY FREED IN THE APRIL AMNESTY, AMNESTY COULD BE REPRESENTED AS HAVING APPLIED TO THEM TOO OR, ALTERNATIVELY, EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THEM. IN EXPLAINING HIS ACTION, NYERERE WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY HONESTLY THAT PRP HAD NOT IMPROVED ITS POSITION AT ALL AS A RESULT OF KIDNAPPING. (AFTER RELEASE OF CAPTIVES, HE COULD ALSO, OF COURSE, AGAIN CONDEMN PRP AS TERRORIST GANG WHICH HAD SHOWN ITSELF TO WORLD FOR WHAT IT IS.)

3. VIEW NYERERE'S COMMENT PARA 5 DAR 1706, DOES EMBASSY DAR THINK NYERERE MIGHT GO ALONG WITH THIS OR SIMILAR SCENARIO? ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY HE WOULD WANT GOZ APPROVAL BEFORE ACTING, IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO TRY FIRST TO GET GOT AGREEMENT CONTINGENT UPON GOZ CONCURRENCE THAN TO DO THE OPPOSITE. MOBUTU'S OPPOSITION TO ANY DEAL ON GOT-HELD PRISONERS SEEMS LIKELY TO BE EVEN STIFFER THAN

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NYERERE'S. IF WE WERE TO GO TO MOBUTU FIRST AND BE TURNED DOWN, LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING NYERERE'S AGREEMENT WOULD BE REDUCED; ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH PRIOR CONTINGENT AGREEMENT FROM NYERERE WE MIGHT BE BETTER ABLE TO SELL IDEA TO MOBUTU.

4. ANY BARGAINING TACTIC INVOLVING A PROMISE TO RELEASE PRP PRISONERS WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE, AT SOME POINT,

ADVANCE APPROVAL BY MOBUTU. HOW DO WE GET THIS IN THE FACE OF WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO BE MOBUTU'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO GRANTING ANY CONCESSIONS AT ALL TO THE PRP OR EVEN TO ACCORDING THE GROUP THE RECOGNITION WHICH ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BRING? WE CAN SEE VARIOUS POSSIBLE INCENTIVES ON WHICH WE MIGHT PLAY: ONE IS MOBUTU'S PRESUMED DESIRE TO LIQUIDATE A SITUATION WHICH WILL BE A GROWING EMBARRASSMENT FOR HIM THE LONGER IT CONTINUES, AND WHICH HE MAY BE RELUCTANT TO TRY TO LIQUIDATE BY FORCE OF ARMS FOR FEAR OF NOT SUCCEEDING AND BEING MADE THEREBY TO LOOK IMPOTENT; ANOTHER IS MOBUTU'S PRESUMED DESIRE TO AVOID HAVING INCIDENT END IN DEATHS OF HOSTAGES ON ZAIRIAN SOIL, RESULTING INEVITABLY IN ACCUSATION BEING LEVELED AT GOZ FOR FAILING TO SHOULDERS ITS

RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMPAIRING GOZ'S RELATIONS WITH USG AND OTHERS. ASSUMING MOBUTU WILL CONCUR IN SOME BARGAINING STRATEGY, WE ALSO WOULD THINK HIS PREFERENCE, LIKE OURS, WOULD BE TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL OUTSIDE PARTY RATHER THAN HAVE GOT OR USG

DEAL WITH PRP. THESE THOUGHTS ARE ONLY SUGGESTIVE AND PRELIMINARY AND ARE THROWN OUT PRIMARILY FOR EMBASSY KINSHASA'S COMMENT.

5. PENDING COMMENT BY EMBASSIES KINSHASA AND DAR ON POSSIBILITIES SUGGESTED ABOVE, DEPT. BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR EMBASSY KINSHASA TO APPROACH GOZ TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATING STRATEGY. AT SAME TIME DEPT. BELIEVES GOZ SHOULD WITHOUT DELAY MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT, TO BE BROADCAST OVER RADIO, WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT THOSE MADE BY US AND DUTCH AMBASSADORS IN DAR (DAR 1742) AND HOPEFULLY HELP COUNTER IMPRESSION NYERERE STATEMENT MAY HAVE GIVEN PRP CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NEGOTIATING DOOR HAS BEEN SLAMMED CLOSED. IN URGING SUCH A STATEMENT (A SUGGESTED TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARA 6 BELOW) EMBASSY MIGHT USE FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS:

A) STATEMENT WOULD HELP FORESTALL POSSIBLE HASTY AND VIOLENT REACTION OF PRP TONYER STATEMENT WHICH WOULD BE TRAGIC FOR CAPTIVES AND A GREAT EMBARRASSMENT FOR ZAIRE.

B) STATEMENT WOULD HELP BUY TIME TO DEVISE STRATEGY FOR SECURING CAPTIVES' RELEASE, WHICH ZAIRE HAS RESPONSIBILITY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO TRY TO OBTAIN.

C.) ABSENCE OF ANY STATEMENT FROM GOZ WILL SOON BEGIN TO ATTRACT UNFAVORABLE NOTICE OF WORLD PRESS.

6. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT FOR GOZ STATEMENT: QUOTE
THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE CONDEMNS THE KIDNAPPING BY
TERRORISTS LAST WEEK OF INNOCENT AMERICAN AND DUTCH CITI-
ZENS FROM THE GOMBE RESEARCH STATION IN TANZANIA. IT
SHARES WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF TANZANIA, THE U.S. AND
THE NETHERLANDS A DEEP HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE WEL-
FARE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL BEING HELD CAPTIVE
AND IS EXPLORING WITH THE OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS
WAYS TO ASSURE THEIR SAFETY AND SECURE THEIR RELEASE.
UNQUOTE. UNLESS EMBASSY KINSHASA PERCEIVES OVER-
RIDING OBJECTIONS, IT SHOULD REQUEST GOZ AGREEMENT TO MAKE
STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES ASAP. INGERSOLL

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